
Journal of the
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY



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Winter 2015



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Barber Coin Collectors' Society

Founded 1989

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Cover Photos: 1909-O Barber Quarter, PCGS MS66, the coin that Dale Friend brought to our BCCS meeting at FUN 2006 for show and tell, just before he sold his magnificent collection of Barber Quarters. One of our more memorable *show and tell* items. Photos provided by Dale Friend.

BCCS President and Journal Editor Message



We're at the end of another year, and it's been a busy one. The BCCS is on a bit of a roll, getting new members each month, and establishing a presence at more new shows than ever before. And getting help from new members, volunteering to do some table duty to promote the Society.

This issue of the Journal also provides several examples of what I was talking about in the last issue.

A number of short articles were submitted by members and readers that simply sent in some photos, and a short story told in a few paragraphs. In another case, a busy dealer and friend discussed a story with me so I could write it up. In this issue, we have short articles involving Barber errors, exonumia, and even a counterfeit. Some interesting items out there. This is in addition to the first of a four-part series on Late Die States by Paul Kluth. I hope you enjoy this final issue of 2015. The BCCS Officers have gotten excellent feedback on the new Journal format.

The next thing to do is come up with a beautiful Barber coin to grace the cover of the Journal in 2016. Suggestions or submissions are welcome – send pointers or photos to me at bccs@barbercoins.org.

As we move into 2016 with our annual meeting at the FUN show in Tampa, we'll be launching a new website early in the new year, as well as a BCCS Brand, with a new logo. As of the time of writing, we haven't gotten any suggestions on a Logo from the membership at large. We'll be discussing at FUN and the Officers will create a plan based on suggestions we receive in the meantime. Remember, a suggestion can be a description of a logo, or a simple drawing, or something more sophisticated if you wish.

Don't forget to complete the **Barber Halves Varieties Survey**, which is due January 31st. You can send in the survey form with your 2016 Dues (if you are up for renewal this year). Or you can fill in the survey online at our website, www.barbercoins.org. We already have several members who have filled out the online forms.

Looking ahead to the next quarter, we've got a good line-up of regional events after FUN, as we look forward to returning to Knoxville and Charlotte, shows we enjoyed this year. See page 11 for the calendar of events, and check the website for updates. And there may be a special event happening in Baltimore in March with Dave Bowers. Stay tuned!

Happy holidays to you all, and best wishes for a great 2016!

- John

Collecting the Barber Series in the Terminal Die State (Part I)

By Paul Kluth, BCCS #664

No, I'm not referring to collecting images of shaved heads after an apocalyptic earth, or saving an endangered species from environmental extinction, though some Barber coins are virtually extinct to find these days in nice, original, problem-free mid-grades.

For fellow Barber Series collectors and enthusiasts, it is always interesting to learn what others specifically collect as a specialty area. Everyone is a bit different, sometimes dependent on influences from family, friends, other collectors, mentors and coin clubs while growing up. Sometimes, the collecting pursuits for a person evolve over the years to become a highly focused collecting goal and accomplishment.

Are you big on completing a Type Set with nice Barber coins that match closely in grade and appearance to the rest of the coins in the set? Are you pursuing a date and mintmark set for a particular denomination (Halves, Quarters, Dimes or Liberty Head "V" Nickels) as best as you can? Needless to say, there are some very tough coins to obtain regardless of the denomination especially if you are seeking absolute completeness. Maybe you collect the Proofs? How about high grade registry sets of the ever-popular business strikes? What about collecting varieties or errors (striking, planchet or die) or even collecting by die marriage (though a tough task in Barbers due to streamline improvements in die preparation at the U.S. Mint)? What about collecting by die state, either seeking perfection in a coin by finding only "early die state(s)" (EDS) or collecting the most destruction possible from a particular broken die by collecting later than "late die state(s)" (LDS)?

Well, for some unknown reason that this author can't explain, I've always had an interest, passion or unknown state of mind in the Late Die States (maybe caused by some form of genetic mutation). And with the Barber Series, that is a real quirky way to go. With Barber coins, the deteriorated dies with large die breaks, shattered dies with bisecting die cracks, and cuds (both pre-cud, retained cud and full cud) are all pretty darn scarce to find these days.



Example of a Full Cud

Most of the experts in the Series tend to agree that minting standards for the life span of Barber Series production was fairly high. Quality control at the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia and branch mints in New Orleans, San Francisco and Denver were apparently at an all-time high during the period and even for a while after when President Teddy Roosevelt was able to get nifty new coinage designs approved by Congress for the Buffalo Nickel (where production began in 1913), and the Mercury Dime, Standing Liberty Quarter, and Walking Liberty Half (where production began later in 1916). These later series are also known to have relatively few errors and known cuds for the number of coins struck each year and certainly compared to the coinage of the 1950's thru to the 1990's.

When it comes to deteriorating dies, most Barber Dime collectors are familiar with some of the large internal die chips that have occurred around the date area and Miss Liberty's neck. But it is those pre-cud die breaks, retained cuds and full cuds that are so elusive today. Realizing how tough these terminal die states were to actually find, I started dabbling in that area of collection building many years ago.

So I figured it was probably time to share a few of these terminal die oddities and categorize them for fellow Barber enthusiasts and other cud collectors.

Let's start with the Barber Halves and work our way down through the other lower denominations to see what is actually out there or is known today... Maybe you also have a few cuds in your collection and would like to share them with members in the BCCS Journal (a collaboration of sorts)? And too, it is always neat to first report a new find, and new discoveries do still surface from time to time from old collections or numismatic accumulations, both here in the U.S. and abroad.

Oddly enough, all the reported (or attributed) and unattributed (or undocumented) cuds on the Barber Halves known by this author are all on low grade coins, unfortunately. There might be some higher grades tucked away somewhere and possibly in some very nice collections?

All known cuds on Barber Half Dollars have to be at least an R6+ if not higher due to their extreme scarcity. The deteriorated dies had to be caught early on by the Mint or the coins have been lost over the years due to heavy circulation in the U.S. by the general public.

Cud references below for BHD (Barber Half Dollars) refer to the definitive book on the topic of cuds, *The Cud Book*, by Sam Thurman and Arnold Margolis, NLG, 1997, and with a later Supplement published in 2001.

Here is the current list of known cuds on Barber Halves:

- 1897 reverse cud at K-8 to 9 at UNI of United (BHD-1897-1R)
- 1898 reverse cud at K-7 at HALF of Half Dollar (reference BHD-1898-1R) [see photos]



1898 reverse cud at K-7 at HALF

- 1901 reverse cud at K-2 to 4 at ERICA of America and Right Wing (BHD-01-1R) [see photos]



1901 reverse cud at K-2 to K-4 at ERICA and Wing

- 1902-O obverse cud at K-12 at WE of Motto (unattributed, ANACS certified as G-6) [see photos below]





1902-O obverse cud at K-12 at WE of Motto

- 1906 tiny reverse cud at K-12 at E of States (unattributed) [see photos below]



1906 reverse cud at K-12 at E in STATES

- 1908-O obverse retained cud/die break at K-1 at RUS of Trust (corrected as BHD-08-O--1 Ret) [see photos next page]. This one is

harder to discern. *Note:* the marks at obverse K-7 and reverse K-11 are the result of damage to the coin.



1908-O obverse retained cud/break at K-1 at RUS in TRUST

Stay tuned for Part II.

THE JOURNAL WANTS YOUR ARTICLES!

Your article submission(s) automatically enters you in the BCCS Literary Contest. We will be announcing our new 2016 Literary Contest in the next issue. So, make sure your membership is up to date and get your article to John at the post office or e-mail address on Page 1.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS February 25th

The 1914-D Barber Half

By John Frost, with Brian Greer

At this year's ANA convention in Rosemont in August, long-time collector and dealer Brian Greer, known for his appreciation for unusual coins, showed me a counterfeit 1914-D Barber Half. He related to me his experiences with this particular counterfeit, and we both thought it would make an interesting read.

A few years ago, Brian saw a 1914-D contemporary counterfeit Barber half. This counterfeit is known in numismatic circles, and is unusual in that there were no 1914-D Barber halves minted.

It is a date that sounds like it *should* exist, but it doesn't.

He purchased the piece from a Dubuque, Iowa dealer. The seller told him that a fair number of these were floating around Iowa decades ago. The counterfeit is of excellent quality and was well circulated, attesting to how believable the "coin" was. It could easily pass as a common date Barber half, and even its color is fairly good. This example also has an interesting die break on the reverse.

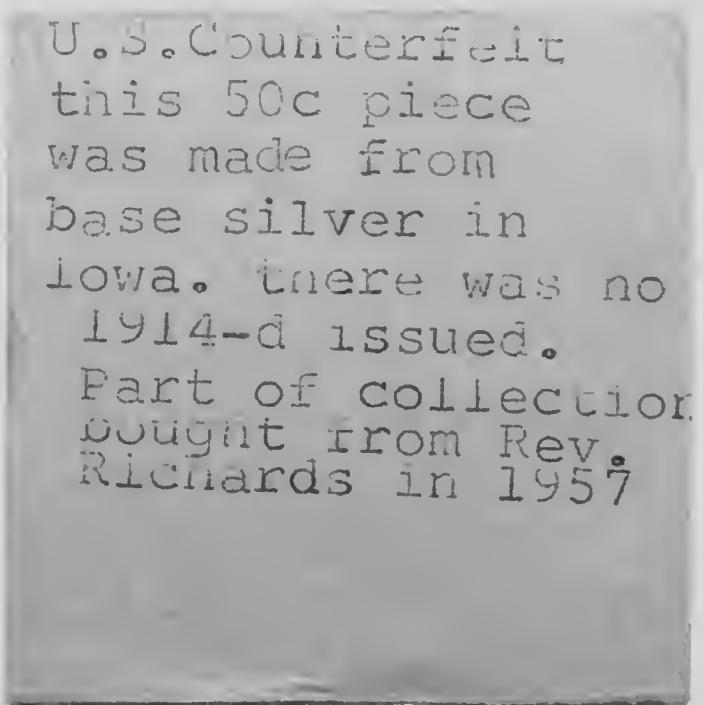


Contemporary Counterfeit 1914-D Barber Half



Die break on Reverse

The envelope that came with the coin suggests that these counterfeits perhaps originated in Iowa. And Brian senses the dealer seemed to know what he was talking about. Were these counterfeits made in Iowa?



Original envelope for 1914-D Counterfeit

At the 2014 Central States convention in Schaumburg, Illinois, a collector showed a similar-looking 1914-D Barber half to dealer David Kahn, asking what it was worth, knowing full well that the date didn't exist. David immediately told him the coin was bogus. The collector told him that he knew it was a counterfeit, and he was testing dealers at the show with it.

Because Brian was sharing a table at the show with David Kahn, he was able to see it, and told the collector everything he knew about it, and that he also owned one. The collector seemed happy to know that somebody knew

what it was, and even more so that there was another one. His piece also had the same die break on the reverse as found on Brian's example.

Brian was generous to share his 1914-D Barber half with the BCCS for this article, and loaned it for display at the BCCS table. We will have it at our Club Table at FUN 2016 in Tampa (Table #2219).

Does anyone else have one?



Calendar - Upcoming BCCS Events

As always, please check the website for any updates or additions. They will be posted there.

January 6-9, 2016 – Tampa, FL. FUN 2016. Club table #2219 all four days (volunteers wanted!). At the Tampa Convention Center.

Meeting: Friday January 8, 3:00 p.m. Room TBD – check show calendar.

February 4 – Long Beach, CA, Joint BCCS-LSCC Social, Thursday at 7:00 p.m., at the Rock Bottom Brewery.

February 5-6 – Knoxville, TN, 52nd Annual Knoxville Coin Show, Thursday at 7:00 p.m., at the Rothchild Catering & Convention Center. 8807 Kingston Pike. Club Table and educational sessions.

February 12-14 – Charlotte, NC, Charlotte Coin Club 46th Annual Show, Metrolina Expo Center. Club Table, Educational sessions.

March 18-20 – Brooklyn Center, MN, Northwest Coin Club's 82nd Annual Money Expo. At the Earle Brown Heritage Ctr. Club Table.

March 20 – Willimantic, CT, Mansfield Numismatic Society's Annual Show, at the Prospect Street School. Club Table.

March 20 – Springfield, IL, Illinois Numismatic Association Annual Show, at the Northfield Center 1. Club Table.

March 31-April 2 – Baltimore, MD, Whitman Baltimore Expo, at the Baltimore Convention Center. Club Table. **Meeting:** Friday April 1, 3:00 p.m. Room TBD – check show calendar.

Plus 3rd Sundays January-March – Plantation, FL, Ft. Lauderdale Coin Show, at Volunteer Park. Club Table.

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A Columbian Half Locket

By Jim Ferris

A number of years ago, in addition to my coin collecting, I developed a significant interest in old ships. I built numerous models (one of my favorite projects was that of the *Charles W. Morgan* in nearby Mystic Seaport). In addition, I collected early ship lamps that burned whale oil. While my collection of whale oil lamps and ship models grew, I remained interested in old coins.

While visiting Lee's Hobby Shop in Groton, CT., an 1892 Columbian half was for sale. A nice original example, priced at \$5.00, which was what these coins sold for at the time. Liking the image of the ship on the reverse, I purchased it, as I didn't yet have one, and the price was right for something that spanned two different hobbies.

When I got the coin home, I removed it from the 2x2 that I bought it in, to put it into a new holder. When I was holding the coin, it felt a little funny, and much to my surprise, it opened!

The coin was actually a locket, with an old photo of a woman inside. It was so well made that it was not apparent there was anything unusual about the coin at all. The hinge was in great shape, and it closed tight. The photo inside was also in excellent condition; it was not stained or damaged at all.

It was a great find. I later found out that these lockets were actually made at the Columbian Exposition in 1893, and two halves of two coins were used to make it. The photo below shows the locket partially opened.



1892 Columbian Half Locket

It stands nicely on a tabletop, as the photos below show.



Columbian Half Locket opened with photo inside

On my next visit to the hobby shop, I told the owner about what I had found, and asked him if he knew anything about it, or where it came from. I was interested in learning as much as I could about it, so see if it was possible to trace who might be in the photo. Unfortunately, nothing was known about it, and I was never able to learn anything more about. Since the owner said that neither he nor the original seller knew the coin was anything other than a normal Columbian half, I hit a dead end.

Still, finding this locket was the greatest coin-related surprise I ever had.

Editor's Note: Jim is a friend of mine, and I purchased the locket from him a few years later. I had forgotten this story had never been written up for the Journal, so I asked him to. Those of you that have seen the BCCS table at a coin show may have seen this locket in the display case, as I frequently exhibit it.



Barber Coinage Love Tokens

Vernon Sebby, BCCS #1103

I've been a Barber quarter collector for a good twenty years. Sometime in the last ten or so, while looking through an exonumia dealer's inventory, it dawned on me to add Barber quarter love tokens to my collection. I initially thought it would be nice to collect one for each year of mintage, 1892 through 1916. I imagined that it would be possible, as it seemed that love tokens weren't particularly rare. I found that wasn't the case.

My searches indicate that the great majority of love tokens were made when Liberty Seated coinage was in circulation, and primarily of dimes, quarters and similar-sized foreign coinage. Granted, my searches haven't been my highest priority, usually happening when there is a little time to kill at a show, but the extent of my collection now stands at two Barber quarters and one Barber dime. And one of the quarters was found by a fellow collector who gave it to me. Here is my collection.



1892 Barber Quarter Love Token



1892 Barber Quarter Love Token Pin



Undated Barber Dime Love Token

I'm sure there are more Barber love tokens to be found. I wonder if anyone has a Barber Half example. Please email melva6906@yahoo.com with questions or comments.





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Two Liberty Nickel Errors

By Jeff Dunham, BCCS #1413

In the last issue of the BCCS Journal, I shared the story and photos of my 1913 double-struck Barber half. This time, I wanted to show two errors on Liberty nickels. The first is a 1904 off-metal striking, on a cent planchet. The second is a remarkable double-struck 1905 nickel, with the second strike dramatically off-center.



1904 Liberty Nickel on a Cent Planchet

According to Jon Sullivan, the error dealer that sold me the two coins, the V-nickel on a cent is one of perhaps 60 examples known. Most examples are mint state but there are also some well-worn examples around (less than 10 he estimated). My example is PCGS MS62 Brown. These off-metal strikes are obviously different from a normal nickel in that they are copper and slightly undersized. This is probably why they never circulated, and those that did were doubtlessly pocket-pieces.

The 1905 double-struck V-nickel is very rare, with probably around 15 double-strokes known for the entire series, with perhaps 6 or 7 of those being mint state. They rarely come on the market for sale, and typically disappear very quickly if they have eye-appeal.

This coin was called 2nd strike 50% off-center by NGC and graded VF25.



Rare Double-struck 1905 Liberty Nickel

The quality controls at the turn of the 19th century were extremely high, and all mint errors from that period are very scarce. What's particularly nice about the 1905 double-struck is that it shows two full dates and so much design on the second strike. It is the nicest circulated V-nickel double-strike I've ever seen, and a really nice looking coin

BCCS Advertisement Rates

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1/2 page	1 issue.....\$30	4 issues.....\$100
1 page	1 issue.....\$70	4 issues.....\$250

1 page inside front - rear cover 1 issue....\$80 4 issues.....\$300

David Lawrence Barber Books online at DLRC Website

DLRC has updated its website. The three David Lawrence Barber coin books – *The Complete Guide to Barber Dimes*, *The Complete Guide to Barber Quarters*, and *The Complete Guide to Barber Halves*, all out of print, are available at the new DLRC on-line library web page:

www.davidlawrence.com/books

Scroll through the books shown and click on the book title you want. Access is free – no membership is required.

Barber Bits

Letter to the Editor

Subject: Grading and Pricing

I have been a BCCS member for twelve to fifteen years. I started collecting in 1945 when I was 10 years old. I have found many Barbers in circulation (worked in retail). I collected nickels, dimes, quarters, and halves.

I only had to purchase the following: nickels: 1912-S, dimes: 1895-O, quarters: 1896-S, 1901-S, 1913-S, and halves: none.

Now I collect Barber dimes, complete in BU and Proof, only needing ten dates to be complete in BU. Quarters are a different matter. I am trying to put the set together mostly in XF to BU. Which brings me to the subject. In June, I went to the Long Beach show, looking for ones which I need and upgrades for the coins I have. I was looking for a 1913-S in VG-F. There were several on the floor, mostly raw. However, one dealer had two slabbed coins. One graded VG8 and the other VG10. The VG8 had only half of the L in LIBERTY visible. *Photograde* says a VG8 should have three letters of LIBETY visible, and VG10 should have five or six letters. How should we judge this grading?

I did purchase a nice 1913-S in Fine 12 for less money than the slabbed ones. As for pricing in Advertisements in *Coin World* along with coins at shows, some coins are much higher than the *Coin Dealer Newsletter*. Should we use the *CDN* as a guide or what?

I guess beauty is in the eye of the beholder.

I am looking forward to 2016 when the ANA will be in Anaheim, California, and meeting other BCCS members.

Jim Haberbush, California

Editor: I think many of us have asked the question, “How should we judge this grading?” lately.

Regional Update

After the ANA in August, we had a quiet September (just the BCCS-LSCC Social at Long Beach), but things got busier in October and non-stop in November.

Barry Purrington hosted a club table at the MOON coin show in October in Minnesota, our first time there. Traffic was on the slow side, but he will give it a go again at the Northwest Coin Club's show in March, also in suburban Minneapolis.

Then came three shows on three consecutive weekends. We returned to Rochester NY for the RNA Expo. This is a well-run show, and although small, it was a lot of fun, and we visited with numerous BCCS members who joined the Society at the show last year. The educational seminars we provided were well attended. Baltimore had active traffic at the club table, and the NH was the following weekend.

Carl Feldman has begun setting up at the Ft. Lauderdale coin shows, promoting Barbers and the BCCS. He will continue to do this throughout the winter.

Due to lack of assistance, we had to cancel the BCCS participation at the Michigan State Numismatic Society show after Thanksgiving. Member George Harrison III hopes we can have better luck if we try again next year.



Carl Feldman in Florida

At the time of writing, I am in Houston, representing the BCCS with member Bob Duzan. We had a great time, and like the other shows, signed up new members. Some of Bob's Barber dime varieties were on display, as was the Columbian Half Locket featured in this issue. As usual, the exhibit had a nice assortment of Barber rarities and oddities, including the rare Barber 1896 1-cent and 5-cent patterns.



"Duzer" in Houston

At the upcoming **FUN 2016** show in Tampa (January 6-9), we will have a club table, sharing with the Liberty Seated Collectors Club. We have a number of BCCS and LSCC members who have already volunteered to staff the table at various times during the show. **We need more help!** Because FUN requires club tables be staffed at all times through Saturday, this represents a challenge. If you are going to FUN this year, and have 1 hour to spare volunteering at the table, it would help a lot. It's an opportunity to meet other Barber enthusiasts, see some neat items on display, and just talk coins for a while. We will have a staffing schedule at the booth, which is **Table #2219**, beyond the U.S. Treasury area, so please stop by and sign up for an hour! And our meeting is Friday at 3:00 p.m. See the show program.

I want to thank everyone who made our Regional Program a success this year. We look forward to another year of new shows and club outreach, and hope you all have happy holidays. See you in 2016.

Houston was also a second-year show for us, and while we are still gaining some traction there, we interacted with a number of our BCCS members, some of whom joined in our inaugural visit last year. A number of Thursday visitors couldn't stay for our meeting on Friday, but it was fun to do show-and-tell at the booth.

At our meeting, we gave a presentation on *Liberty Seated and Barber Fakes – Counterfeits and Altered Coins*.

BCCS Blind Email List

The BCCS maintains an email list to allow us to notify our members if an Event gets added to the schedule, or is cancelled at the last moment. We can notify you by email (email addresses are not displayed). We do not give this email list out to anyone for any reason. If you are not on this list and want to be, please let us know with a message to BCCS@BarberCoins.org.

Promote the BCCS!

At your local coin club...

At a local or regional show...

Have you ever given a presentation on Barbers to your local coin club? Do you have a local show where you could put a small Barber exhibit, and BCCS brochures to introduce collectors to the BCCS? Do any of these shows have meeting rooms or educational programs? It's easy to promote the BCCS, and will be getting easier. It doesn't have to be complicated, or take a lot of your time.

A library of Powerpoint educational presentations, the BCCS brochure and membership application, table signage, templates for leaflets, and more, are all available for download and use from our website. See www.barbercoins.org and select "Resources" from the navigation.

If you need some assistance or advice, if you have a program that you would like to add to the BCCS library, or any other suggestions, please contact us at bccs@barbercoins.org.



A non-profit collector's club dedicated to furthering the knowledge of coins designed by Charles E. Barber, Chief Engraver of the Mint from 1880 to 1917. He is best known for his design of the Liberty Head design on the dime, quarter and half as well as the Liberty Head or "VDB" nickel.



Membership is \$12 per year and includes 4 issues of our quarterly publication, the Journal of the Barber Coin Collectors' Society. A membership application is available on that website, and also on our website.

www.BarberCoins.org

BCCS Membership Application

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1909-O Barber Quarter
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